



National Crime Victims' Rights Week

WHEREAS, more than 20 million Americans of all backgrounds are victims of crime each year, and those crimes leave a lasting physical, emotional, and financial impact;

WHEREAS, President Ronald Reagan instituted the National Crime Victims' Rights Week in 1981, sparking a national commitment to more equitable and supportive responses to victims by promoting victims' rights initiatives, effective and compassionate victim services, and just compensation and financial support;

WHEREAS, thousands of victim assistance programs now provide help and support to child victims of violence and sexual abuse; stalking victims; survivors of homicide victims; drunk-driving crashes victims; and victims of domestic, dating, and sexual violence and other crimes;

WHEREAS, the victim service community has worked for decades to create an environment for victims that is safe, supportive, and effective, and intervening early with services that support and empower victims provides a pathway to recovery from crime and abuse;

WHEREAS, honoring the rights of victims, including the right to be heard and to be treated with fairness, dignity, and respect, and working to meet their needs rebuilds their trust in the criminal justice and social service systems;

WHEREAS, serving victims and rebuilding their trust restores hope to victims and survivors, as well as their communities;

WHEREAS, National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 10 - 16, 2016, provides an opportune time to commit to ensuring that all victims of crime – even those who are challenging to reach or serve – are offered accessible and appropriate services in the aftermath of crime; and

WHEREAS, the Collin County District Attorney and Collin County Commissioners Court are joining forces with victim service providers, criminal justice agencies, and concerned citizens throughout Collin County, Texas, and America are hereby dedicated to serving victims, building trust, and restoring hope for justice and healing.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Greg Willis, _____, as Collin County District Attorney and we, as the Collin County Commissioners Court, do jointly proclaim the week of April 10 - 16, 2016, as CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK, and reaffirm Collin County's commitment to creating a victim service and criminal justice response that assists all victims of crime during National Crime Victims' Rights Week and throughout the year; and to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for those community members, victim service providers, and criminal justice professionals who are committed to improving our response to all victims of crime so that they may find relevant assistance, support, justice, and a peace.

Keith Self, County Judge

Susan Fletcher, Commissioner, Pct. 1

Cheryl Williams, Commissioner, Pct. 2

Chris Hill, Commissioner, Pct. 3

Duncan Webb, Commissioner, Pct. 4